

Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (EPHTN): Process for Development and Implementation

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Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

Goal

- To build a standards-based, coordinated, and integrated environmental public health tracking (surveillance) network at the state and national level that will allow linkage and reporting of health effects data with human exposure data and environmental hazard data.

Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

Priorities

- **CDC, States, Local Health Departments, Centers of Excellence, and CDC programs will work to ensure compatibility with the PHIN.**
- **CDC's EPHTN will be interoperable with EPA's National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN)**

Data Technology Workgroup

Recommendations

- **Develop in cooperation with CDC's NEDSS, EPA's National Environmental Information Exchange Network, and other national data architectures**
- **Work with federal partners and standards-setting organizations to identify, adopt, maintain and use process, performance, and technology standards**
- **Should consist of a network of distributed sources**
- **Make available tools for data analysis, interpretation, and presentation**

Data Technology Workgroup

Recommendations

- **Be technology neutral**
- **Develop formal models**
- **Adopt metadata standards**
- **Develop data-sharing agreements/MOUs**
- **Explore non-traditional data sources**
- **Develop a comprehensive information security plan**

Environmental Public Health Tracking Network Development and Implementation

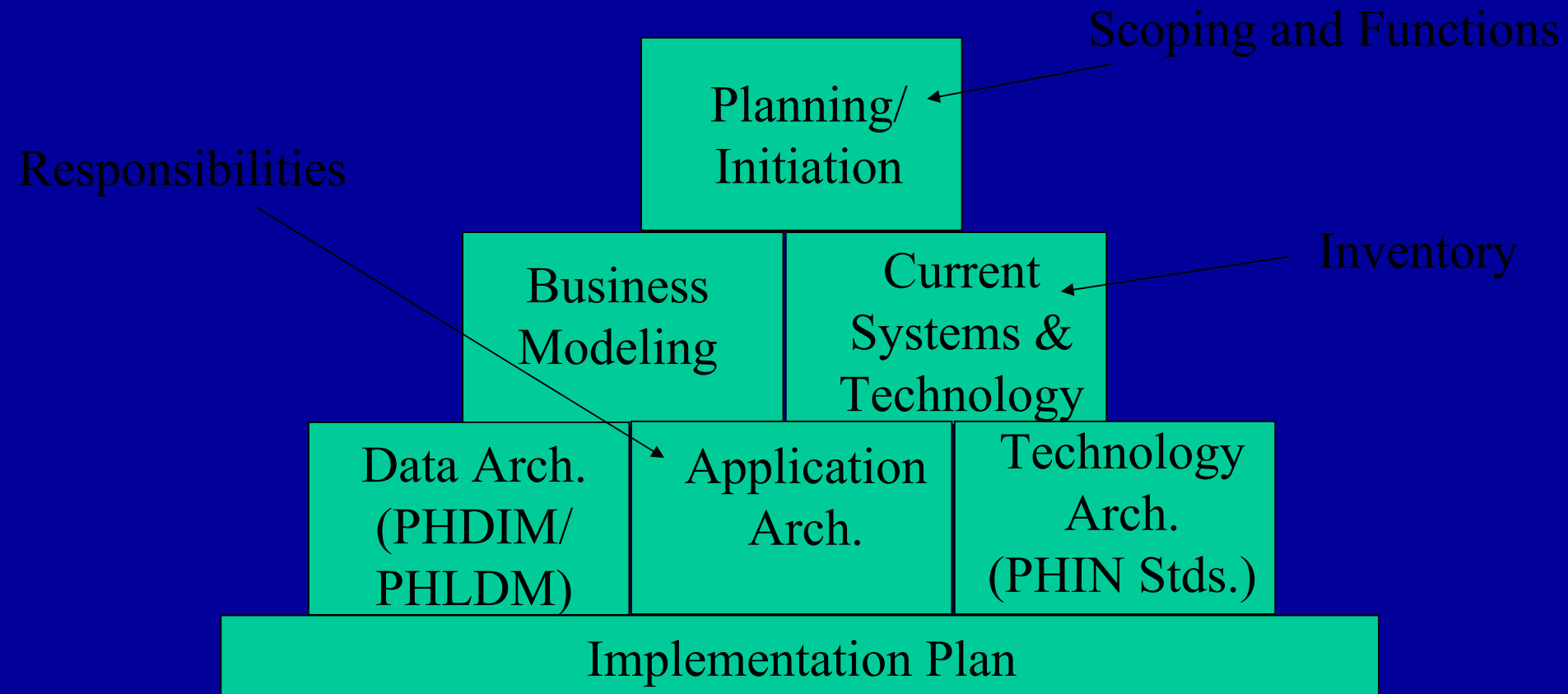


Figure Source: Spewak, Steven H.; Enterprise Architecture Planning; QED Publishing Group, Boston, London, Toronto 1993; Figure 1.8, Page 16;

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CDC / EPA Collaborative Activities

- **EPA's Office of Environmental Information - designated a Public Health Liaison – Bill Sonntag**
- **EPA participated in CDC Environmental Health Tracking Workgroups**
- **State visits conducted jointly by CDC, EPA, ASTHO, and ECOS**
- **EPA has coordinated meetings between CDC/ATSDR staff and staff of Program offices**
- **MOU**

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CDC / EPA Collaborative Activities (Con't)

- Quarterly conference calls between CDC and EPA
- EPA and CDC's Information Resource Management (IRM) Office
- Form a CDC/EPA workgroup to explore data and reporting issues
- Will seek input from States about details of potential interoperability of CDC and EPA Networks.
- EPHT will work with EPA's Environmental Data Standards Consortium on standards for common data elements.

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Activities with CDC Program Offices

- **Internal CDC/ATSDR Workgroup – meet regularly**
 - **NCCDPHP, NCBDDDD, EPO, CDC OD, NCEH Lab, ATSDR, NCHS, NIOSH, NCIPC**
- **EPHT staff met with CDC/ATSDR Program staff on January 30, 2003**

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Activities with CDC Program Offices (Con't)

- **Plan to meet with CDC Program Offices individually to:**
 - **Identify common business functions across programs**
 - **Determine whether data collected will be useful for other programs**
 - **Identify needs for environmental data**
 - **Critique Public Health Domain Information Model (PHDIM) and Public Health Logical Data Model (PHLDM)**

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Activities with EPHT Grantees

- **Awarded EPHT cooperative agreements - Sept 2002**
- **States, local health departments, and Centers of Excellence participate in the CDC coordinated Standards and Network Development Workgroup**